

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

*Please amend the specification beginning at page 1, line 3 and ending at page 1, line 11  
as follows:*

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

**1. Field of the Invention**

The present invention relates to a crosstalk checking method for checking crosstalk caused by signal transition of either one of adjacent lines between the adjacent lines in an layout design of a semiconductor integrated circuit configured by connecting basic logical cells or functional macro blocks via inter-cell lines.

**2. Description of the Related Art**

The prior art will be described in reference to FIGS. 13 to 17.